



**Contacts:**

MECA: Terena Morin 713.802.9370

QHF: George Smalley 713.249.5614

## **NEWS ADVISORY**

- WHO:** H.E. Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the U.S.  
Alice Valdez, Executive Director and Founder, MECA  
Graciela Saenz, Qatar Harvey Fund Advisory Board  
Elected Officials and Distinguished Guests
- WHAT:** News conference to announce \$10.4 million in grants to MECA and four other organizations in southeast Texas; To be followed by a student performance and brief reception
- WHEN:** Tuesday, July 2, 2019  
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 pm.
- WHERE:** MECA (Multicultural Education and Counseling Through the Arts)  
1900 Kane Street  
Houston, Texas 77007  
(713) 802-9370

The State of Qatar, represented by Ambassador Al-Thani, Chair of the Qatar Harvey Fund, will announce a large grant to MECA. The Ambassador will also announce grants to four other organizations in southeast Texas, thus fulfilling Qatar's 2017 pledge to provide \$30 million to assist southeast Texas in its long-term recovery following Hurricane Harvey.



**Qatar Harvey Fund**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **STATE OF QATAR DONATES \$1.7 MILLION TO HARVEY-DAMAGED MECA; AN ADDITIONAL \$8.7 MILLION IN GRANTS ANNOUNCED FROM QATAR HARVEY FUND**

**Houston, July 2, 2019** – The State of Qatar, through its \$30 million Qatar Harvey Fund, today announced a gift of \$1.7 million to Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA), a cultural community center that provides arts and educational programming throughout Houston. The funds will be used for repairs and improvements to MECA's historic Dow School Building. The grant will also provide 16 three-year scholarships to MECA students whose families are still recovering from Hurricane Harvey.

The announcement was made today at MECA by H.E. Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to the U.S. and Chair of the Qatar Harvey Fund, who said: "Helping to provide continued access to educational resources and opportunities in the wake of Hurricane Harvey is a primary goal of the Qatar Harvey Fund. MECA has been an educational beacon in the Houston area for more than forty-two years, and we want to help ensure that it continues to brighten the lives of children for many more generations to come."

Alice Valdez, Executive Director and Founder of MECA, said this: "We are just so grateful to Ambassador Al-Thani and the State of Qatar for their generous gift. Our vision of transforming MECA into an even greater cultural space and educational treasure for the Houston community can now be realized."

Ambassador Al-Thani also announced grants from the Qatar Harvey Fund totaling \$8.7 million. These grants are the remaining ones from the Qatar Harvey Fund, thus fulfilling the country's pledge of \$30 million for long-term recovery projects in southeast Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

Blue Triangle Community Center - \$4,988,123

A grant of \$4,988,123 will fund renovations to the historic Center in Houston's Third Ward. Blue

More . . .

Triangle, which was badly damaged during Hurricane Harvey, has a long history of providing programs and activities for children and adults, and houses a mural by the well-known artist John Biggers.

Habitat for Humanity - \$3,196,611.43

A grant of \$3,196,611.43 will support approximately 64 repairs and rebuilds of homes damaged or destroyed during Hurricane Harvey in Harris, Jefferson, Orange and Refugio counties.

Rebuild Texas Fund - \$549,580

In addition to the \$5M grant to the Rebuild Texas Fund announced in 2018, a \$549,580 supplement will support:

- Learning Undeclared to build out two mobile science laboratories to be deployed to schools across southeast Texas
- Target Hunger to restore warehouse and food pantry capacity in North and East Houston damaged by Hurricane Harvey

For more information about the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar, please visit [www.QatarHarveyFund.com](http://www.QatarHarveyFund.com) and <http://washington.embassy.qa/en>.

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Contacts:

Qatar Harvey Fund: George Smalley, (713) 249-5614

MECA: Terena Morin, (713) 802-9370



## Qatar Harvey Fund

### **CITY OF HOUSTON PROCLAIMS "QATAR DAY IN HOUSTON"** **State of Qatar is Recognized for \$30 Million in Support After Hurricane Harvey**

**HOUSTON, TX** November 19, 2019 – Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner declared today "Qatar Day in Houston" to acknowledge the State of Qatar for its generous support of the city's long-term recovery efforts following Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

In a ceremony in City Council chambers at the council's weekly meeting, Mayor Turner read aloud and presented a proclamation to Qatar's consul general in Houston, the Honorable Rashid al-Dehaimi. Council Member Jack Christie had requested the proclamation.

In his acceptance remarks, Consul General al-Dehaimi told members of City Council that the \$30 million Qatar Harvey Fund was established soon after the hurricane upon the instructions of His Highness the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, and that all of the recovery funds were allocated prior to the storm's two-year anniversary last August.

The Qatar Harvey Fund is chaired by Qatar's Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, who said after the ceremony: "The State of Qatar has a history of providing humanitarian assistance throughout the world, including after Hurricane Harvey. We wanted to help our friends in Texas, where our relationships in business, education, and medical and cultural exchange go back decades. It is an honor for us that today is "Qatar Day in Houston."

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said: "The Qatar Harvey Fund has helped our City immensely, providing the means to enable a more complete recovery from Hurricane Harvey. On behalf of the City of Houston, we sincerely thank the leaders of Qatar and look forward to their continued friendship."

Jack Christie, the At-Large Position 5 Council Member, said: "We choose to honor Qatar for the exceptional kindness and compassion that Emir Al Thani, his family, and the great people of Qatar exhibited towards the City of Houston. When the city was at its greatest need, with citizens hurting from floods, homelessness, and educational deficits, our Qatari friends answered the call for aid."

The Qatar Harvey Fund was established by the State of Qatar in 2017 to administer \$30 million in long-term recovery assistance to the people of southeast Texas following widespread destruction from Hurricane Harvey in August of that year. The Fund serves as a commitment of solidarity between the people of Qatar and the people of Texas and the U.S. The entire \$30 million has been publicly committed to recovery projects in the areas of education, housing and community development. For more information about the Qatar Harvey Fund, please visit [www.QatarHarveyFund.com](http://www.QatarHarveyFund.com).

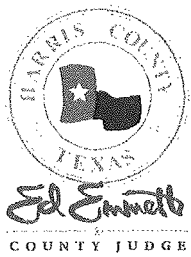
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*For more information:*

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**Date:** October 17, 2018  
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## NEWS RELEASE

### **STATE OF QATAR DONATES \$2.5 MILLION TO RESTORATION OF RIVERSIDE GENERAL HOSPITAL AS PART OF ITS COMMITMENT TO HARVEY RECOVERY**

*Harris County Officials Say Generous Donation Will Help Restore  
Badly Needed Health Care to Third Ward, Surrounding Area*

The State of Qatar has donated \$2.5 million from its Qatar Harvey Fund to Harris County to assist in the county's Riverside Hospital Project, which will help restore badly needed medical and mental health care to the Third Ward community after Hurricane Harvey.

Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Qatari ambassador to the United States, signed a letter of commitment during a ceremony at the Riverside Hospital site this morning. They were joined by state Rep. Garnet Coleman and county Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

The \$2.5 million gift is part of a larger \$30 million gift from the State of Qatar to assist the long-term recovery of victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas, which also includes gifts of \$5 million to the Rebuild Texas fund and \$2.5 million to the City of Houston. The Qatar Harvey Fund is similar to the Qatar Katrina Fund, which provided \$100 million in grants for assistance in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

"The Qatar Harvey Fund is proud to partner with Harris County on the Riverside Hospital Project," said Al-Thani. "From its very beginning, the fund's goal has been to support long-term rebuilding efforts for families and communities most affected by Hurricane Harvey. This redevelopment and expansion will both restore a historic neighborhood institution and provide the Third Ward with much needed health services - a critical need for enduring recovery."

Riverside General Hospital opened in 1926 as "The Houston Negro Hospital," the first nonprofit hospital for black patients and a workplace for black doctors who were not allowed to admit patients to the "black wards" of the area's other racially segregated hospitals. The site still boasts the Houston Negro Hospital Nursing School, the first of its kind for black nurses in Harris County. The hospital, which changed its name to Riverside General in 1961, closed in 2015 after significant financial and legal troubles. Harris County hopes to reopen the four-acre site as a full-service clinic with a strong behavioral health component by 2021.

"Hurricane Harvey damaged our region in incalculable ways, including our health care facilities," said Emmett. "This generous gift from our friends in Qatar will help restore some badly needed health care facilities to the area."

## **MAYOR'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE**

### **\$2.5 Million Donation Agreement Makes Qatar the Founding Donor to Mayor's New Fund to Aid the Homeless**

**October 18, 2018** -- Mayor Sylvester Turner and Qatar's ambassador to the U.S., Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, signed an agreement at City Hall today making Qatar the founding donor to the new Mayor's Fund To Reduce Homelessness.

The generous gift of \$2.5 million comes from the Qatar Harvey Fund, which was established to aid Texas' long-term recovery from Hurricane Harvey.

The city of Houston, partnering with more than 100 local agencies through The Way Home initiative, slashed homelessness by more than half in the metropolitan area since 2011. But flooding from Harvey temporarily halted the historic progress by displacing individuals who had never been homeless before.

"This precious gift from Qatar strengthens the city's recovery by enabling us to provide services to a newly disadvantaged group of Houstonians," Mayor Turner said. "Government and non-profit funds for homelessness interventions are usually hard to come by, which makes the donation even more meaningful as Qatar strengthens bonds with the people of Texas."

"The Qatar Harvey Fund is proud to be the founding funder of this innovative instrument to ensure Houston's rebuilding efforts include all its citizens." Ambassador Al-Thani said. "The Qatar Harvey Fund is committed to supporting partners and projects working towards long-term recovery after Hurricane Harvey, especially in the most vulnerable communities. Mayor Turner's new initiative to reduce homelessness addresses the critical need for homeless housing and supportive services, which increased in the year following Harvey."

The Qatar Harvey Fund's total commitment to the Texas recovery is \$30 million.

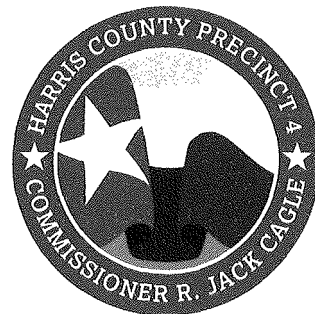
Mayor Turner said the city will use the money to provide transitional housing for chronically homeless individuals dealing with mental illness and substance abuse.

The Mayor's Fund To Reduce Homelessness will also underwrite innovative ways of delivering wrap-around services for this vulnerable population through a Homeless Navigation Center.

Homeless populations in the five pilot neighborhoods of the mayor's Complete Communities initiative will be a focus of the relief programs. The initiative uses government, non-profit and private sector resources to provide equitable, revitalizing services and amenities to neighborhoods that have been under-served.



**Qatar Harvey Fund**



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **State of Qatar Donates \$3.3 Million to Build Eight Soccer Fields in Harris County**

*Fields will also Serve as Water Retention Basins for Flood Mitigation*

**Houston, July 1, 2019** – The State of Qatar, through its \$30 million Qatar Harvey Fund, today announced a gift of \$3.3 million for the construction of eight soccer fields in Harris County, five in Precinct 1 and three in Precinct 4. The soccer fields will also be designed as water collection basins to mitigate future flooding.

The announcement was made today at BBVA Stadium by H.E. Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to the U.S. He was joined by Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo, Precinct 4 Commissioner R. Jack Cagle, and Licia Green Ellis, representing Precinct 1 and her husband, Commissioner Rodney Ellis.

The five soccer fields in Precinct 1 will be built in Blue Ridge Park, located in far southwest Harris County between the Sam Houston Tollway and FM 2234.

The three soccer fields in Precinct 4 will be constructed in Alabonson Park along Bingle Road between Alabonson Road and White Oak Bayou in northwest Houston.

Planned amenities at Alabonson Park, a 50-acre multi-use facility, also include softball and football fields, parking lots, maintenance facilities, picnic areas, and playgrounds, as well as paved multi-use trails and natural surface trails that could one day connect to additional trail systems along White Oak Bayou. Construction is scheduled to begin in August 2019.

Ambassador Al-Thani, who chairs the Qatar Harvey Fund, said during the announcement: "Qatar has relationships in Houston and southeast Texas that go back decades and the Qatar Harvey Fund is a gesture of solidarity, designed to support long-term recovery and resilience. These fields serve that purpose by using land vulnerable to flooding to bring recreation access closer to these communities."

More...

The Qatar Harvey Fund has already announced approximately \$16 million in Harvey recovery projects in southeast Texas, including a \$2.5 million donation announced last October to help restore Harris County's Riverside Hospital in Houston's Third Ward.

Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis said: "I'm extremely grateful that Qatar has been here for our city after we faced one of the greatest challenges in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. On behalf of Precinct One, I sincerely thank Ambassador Al-Thani and the Qatar Harvey Fund for their generous gift that will provide soccer fields at Blue Ridge Park for our families to enjoy. Also, the flood mitigation component of this project will help protect thousands of people who live in the Sims Bayou watershed from future flooding."

"Thank you, Ambassador Al-Thani, for this generous donation," said Commissioner R. Jack Cagle. "This important step in our recovery from Hurricane Harvey provides recreational opportunities and flood relief for the area."

Ambassador Al-Thani visited Houston and Harris County in October 2018 to announce the first round of grants to support education, housing and community development projects, including a \$622,000 gift to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Texas via the Rebuild Texas Fund. During his current visit, the Ambassador will announce the remaining approximately \$14 million in donations from the Qatar Harvey Fund. These announcements will fulfill Qatar's pledge of \$30 million in funding long-term recovery projects in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.

#### **About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar**

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storm's victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. For more information, visit [www.QatarHarveyFund.com](http://www.QatarHarveyFund.com).

Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.

#### **CONTACTS**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **HCC announces Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship Program**

Scholarships made possible by the Qatar Harvey Fund and Rebuild Texas Fund

HOUSTON (Jan. 9, 2019) – The Houston Community College Foundation today announced a new scholarship program for students who were unable to continue their studies at HCC due to financial constraints resulting from Hurricane Harvey. It is anticipated that more than 100 students who withdrew from HCC after the hurricane will receive scholarships, beginning in the Spring 2019 semester.

Funding for the scholarships was provided by the State of Qatar through a \$300,000 grant from its Qatar Harvey Fund, a \$30 million fund established last year for the long-term recovery of southeast Texas. The funding will be made available to the HCC Foundation via a partnership between the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund.

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, created to support the rebuilding of Texas communities hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. The Qatar Harvey Fund grant for HCC student scholarships is part of \$5 million in overall funding that the Qatar Harvey Fund has committed to the Rebuild Texas Fund for long-term recovery assistance in southeast Texas.

"We are grateful to the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund for their dedication and passion to help rebuild and revitalize our community, including our HCC family impacted by Hurricane Harvey," said HCC Chancellor Cesar Maldonado. "We now can provide financial assistance to students who had to put their HCC education on hold, or step away from classes altogether, as a result of Harvey."

"A storm as devastating as Harvey disrupts lives in so many ways," said His Excellency Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to the U.S. "The Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship Program will support HCC students impacted by the storm as they continue their studies. Qatar has long invested in education, which provides both a direct benefit to students who pursue it, as well as a multiplier effect for their families and communities. We are very pleased to partner with the Houston Community College Foundation on this program."

"We are excited to partner with the Houston Community College Foundation on this scholarship program to continue our collective mission of helping communities rebuild after Hurricane Harvey," said Neeraj Aggarwal, program director of Rebuild Texas Fund. "We know that rebuilding requires strong, creative partners from business, government, non-profit and philanthropy working together, and are excited to see how HCC's project positively impacts the community."

### **About HCC**

*Houston Community College (HCC) is composed of 15 Centers of Excellence and numerous satellite centers that serve the diverse communities in the Greater Houston area by preparing individuals to live and work in an increasingly international and technological society. HCC is one of the country's largest singly-accredited, open-admission, community colleges offering associate degrees, certificates, workforce training, and lifelong learning opportunities. To learn more, visit [www.hccs.edu](http://www.hccs.edu).*

### **About HCC Foundation**

*The Houston Community College Foundation supports HCC in its efforts to attract and educate Houston-area students with the desire and the dedication to learn - including many non-traditional students and those facing barriers to higher education. Established in 1976, the HCC Foundation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Internal Revenue Service has classified the Foundation as a Section 509(a)(1) and 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) publicly supported charity. To learn more, visit [www.hccs.edu/foundation](http://www.hccs.edu/foundation).*

### **About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar**

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storms victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational, and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.

### **About the Rebuild Texas Fund**

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations within the impacted communities that are making an impact in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; health; housing; education and childcare; transportation and workforce; and capital for rebuilding small businesses. The Rebuild Texas Fund will continue to fund projects and organizations within these areas through 2019. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in Texas communities, that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuildtx.org](http://www.rebuildtx.org).

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**D R A F T 5 FINAL**

**STATE OF QATAR JOINS BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER HOUSTON  
TO HOST SOCCER CLINIC AND CELEBRATE QATAR'S NATIONAL SPORT DAY**

*Soccer drills and scrimmages at Spring Branch Club led by Houston Dynamo Coaches*

HOUSTON, Feb. 12, 2019 – Diplomats from Qatar's Consulate in Houston joined the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston today to host a soccer clinic for local students in celebration of Qatar's National Sport Day.

More than 100 students from the Spring Branch Club, ranging in age from 6 to 14, enhanced their skills by participating in soccer drills and scrimmages led by coaches from the Houston Dynamo.

Qatar's Consul General in Houston, Dr. Khamis Alkaabi, spoke to students about the importance of wellness and exercise as well as life in Qatar, a small country in the Arabian Gulf. "National Sport Day is a special celebration in our country, where communities and families learn, play and enjoy the benefits of sports and healthy living. We're pleased to partner with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston and the Houston Dynamo to bring this tradition to Spring Branch."

Qatar is one of only several countries with a national sports holiday. Each year, residents are encouraged to participate with friends and family in the many sporting events offered at stadiums and parks across Qatar. Participants also learn about Qatar's sporting heritage and the role it has played in the country's recent advances, including Qatar's successful bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Kevin Hattery, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, said: "We're excited to partner with Qatar for an afternoon of fitness and we're grateful to the Houston Dynamo for making their experts available. Qatar has been generous in their support nationally for our Clubs and this is a fun way for our members to get active while learning about a different culture."

Besides celebratory events in Qatar and Houston, Qatar's U.S. Embassy and consulates are today hosting a series of activities across the U.S., including events with Boys & Girls Clubs in Tampa, Miami and the Gulf Coast. Celebrations will also take place in New York City and Los Angeles with America SCORES and in the U.S. capital with the Washington Redskins Charitable Foundation. The soccer supplies acquired for Houston's clinic, including goals, balls, bags and shin guards, will be donated to the Spring Branch Club for use this soccer season.

Qatar and southeast Texas have long-standing cultural, educational and economic ties. In 2017, the State of Qatar announced a \$30 million gift for the long-term recovery of victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. Roughly half of that amount has already been committed for projects through the Qatar Harvey Fund. One of those announced donations was \$622,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, in partnership with the rebuild Texas Fund, for both physical repairs and programmatic support.

**About the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston**

*Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston is the region's leading youth development organization, achieving an enviable record of creatively engaging, educating and empowering over 20,000*

*low-income youth and teens in ways that positively impact their lives and improve their chances of achieving and sustaining academic and economic success. [www.bgcgh.org](http://www.bgcgh.org)*

**About the State of Qatar**

*Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.*



**LAMAR UNIVERSITY**

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM™

March 22, 2019

## **News Release**

Contact: Shelly Vitanza, director of public affairs, (409) 880-8396; svitanza@lamar.edu

# **“LU Strong” Receives \$1.15 Million Grant from Rebuild Texas Fund and Qatar Harvey Fund**

**Funds to Help Students Affected by Hurricane Harvey**

LU announced today that it has received \$1,154,116 in funding from the Rebuild Texas Fund and the Qatar Harvey Fund, both of which were created after Hurricane Harvey to aid in the long-term recovery of southeast Texas. The funds will establish the “Qatar LU Strong Center” as well as the Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship program to support students affected by the storm.

The Center will provide centralized services for students struggling to recover from the impact of Hurricane Harvey, including counseling support and referrals for on and off-campus mental health services, emergency grants and scholarships to ensure students persist in their academic pursuits, connections to social service supports, and resilience training and support for recovering and meeting future disasters. The Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship program will provide up to 527 scholarships to LU students still recovering from the impact of Hurricane Harvey.

“Thousands of our students were impacted by Harvey and had to put their educations on hold or drop out completely for one reason or another,” said Vice Provost for Digital Learning, Division of Distance Learning, Brenda Nichols. “We immediately created a fund, the Cardinal Emergency Fund, and raised \$350,000 but just as quickly disbursed the funds because the need was just so great. We then applied for a grant from the Rebuild Texas Fund to continue our efforts and get students the help they need to get back to school.”

The Rebuild Texas Fund is collaborating with the Qatar Harvey Fund to help the long-term recovery of victims from the storm. The two Funds also collaborated on a similar scholarship program in Houston, providing \$300,000 to Houston Community College to create the HCC Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship program.

“The Qatar Harvey Fund is proud to partner with the Rebuild Texas Fund to support LU students impacted by Hurricane Harvey,” said His Excellency Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar’s Ambassador to the U.S. “Qatar may be half a world away from Beaumont but we are neighbors, not strangers. It is our

hope that this gift will help an already resilient community make further progress on the road to recovery.”

The \$1.15 million grant to LU is in addition to other funding the University received from the U.S. Department of Education and the State of Texas. All together, these funds total approximately \$1.6 and will be distributed to qualifying students by the fall of 2021.

The Qatar LU Strong Center and the Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship Program, together with the Office of the Academic Affairs, Dean of Students, Financial Aid and the Student Health Center, will provide funds to qualifying students to cover necessary costs including:

- Tuition
- Housing, food, utilities, transportation, and child care
- Clothing, schoolbooks, laptops, and other essentials lost as a result of the storm
- Mental health services
- Access to academic support and resources
- Enrollment in specialized workshops to develop resilience skills

“We estimate that the impact of Harvey on the university \$4 million,” said Nichols. “While LU Strong won’t completely meet the needs of every student, we do look forward to reaching out to those students who had to leave and inviting them back on campus to finish the educational pursuits they started.”

“We’re grateful to the Qatar Harvey Fund, the State of Qatar and the Rebuild Texas Fund. They recognized our efforts to serve those in need. Their generosity will change students’ lives,” said Nichols. “It’s a step in the right direction to get us back where we were pre-Harvey and put funds in the hands of those who really need it to recover and get their lives back on track.”

To qualify for Scholarship resources, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a currently enrolled LU student or an entering accepted student in a degree or credential program for at least three (3) credit hours (undergraduate or graduate level) during their first semester of program participation and who must complete at least 12 credit hours within one calendar year.
- Have a financial hardship that has been caused directly by the impact of Hurricane Harvey.
- Be in good student conduct standing.
- Must have used all current awarded financial aid.
- Have a completed FAFSA application on file with the LU Office of Financial Aid.
- Complete all questions on the application and provide supporting documentation.

Qualifying students will meet one-on-one with a skilled case manager, who will connect them with the right resources for their unique situation. Together, the student and case manager will build an individualized plan of action. The Qatar LU Strong Center and Scholarship Program will provide the support students need on their journey to recovery from the effects of Hurricane Harvey.

To apply for services offered by the Qatar LU Strong Center or Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship program, or to refer a student, visit [lamar.edu/lustrong](http://lamar.edu/lustrong), or join the conversation on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at "LUStrongProgram." For more information, you can also call 409-880-8458 or email [LUStrong@lamar.edu](mailto:LUStrong@lamar.edu).

***About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar***

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storms victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational, and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.

***About the Rebuild Texas Fund***

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations and community leaders in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; education and childcare; health; housing; rebuilding small businesses and workforce and transportation. The Rebuild Texas Fund will fund projects and organizations through July 2019 and will continue to work alongside communities through 2020. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in affected Texas communities. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuildtx.org](http://www.rebuildtx.org).

**THE EMBASSY OF THE STATE OF QATAR TO HOST SPRING  
CELEBRATION  
WITH BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER HOUSTON**

**HOUSTON, TX (Friday, April 12, 2019):** The **State of Qatar** is hosting a Spring celebration for students at the **Holthouse Boys & Girls Club** and other nearby Clubs in Houston's East End.

The celebration takes place on **Friday, April 12th from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the **Holthouse Club, 2411 Canal Street**. Some 200 student members, age 6 to 17, will participate in a variety of hands-on activities, including an Easter egg hunt, crafts to make floral headbands and artistic flower pots, as well as temporary body art tattoos and henna.

The event will be attended by Qatar's Deputy Consul in Houston, **Mr. Rashid Al Khayareen**. "This celebration in Houston's historic East End is one of many spring festivities being hosted by Qatar around the country," Mr. Al Khayareen said. "Due to the destruction and ongoing recovery from Hurricane Harvey, it becomes even more important that as Houstonians we take time to celebrate and bring smiles to children."

Besides Houston, Qatar is hosting events at Boys & Girls Clubs in Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York City, Tampa and Washington, D.C. The State of Qatar first supported the Boys & Girls Clubs in 2007 with a \$5 million grant from the Qatar Katrina Fund to Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast in Pass Christian, Mississippi. This gift allowed the Club to rebuild its 28,000-square-foot community center, which was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina and is now named the Qatar Center. Since then, Qatar has supported Clubs in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

"We are so grateful for our partnership with the State of Qatar and their commitment to youth in need immediately after Hurricane Harvey and still today," **Kevin R. Hattery**, President & CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston said. "Qatar not only invests in our Clubs that support Greater Houston's youth, but also celebrates these kids and provides opportunities they will always remember."

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey, the State of Qatar announced a \$30 million gift for the long-term recovery of the storms' victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. To date, approximately \$16 million has been announced for recovery projects, including a \$622,000 donation to 11 Boys & Girls Clubs in Greater Houston in partnership with the Rebuild Texas Fund.

**About the State of Qatar**

Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational, and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.

**About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston**



**About Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston**

For almost 70 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston has been the Houston area's leading youth development organization, achieving an enviable record of creatively engaging, educating and empowering a large number of low-income young people in ways that positively impact their lives and improve their chances of achieving and sustaining academic and economic success. [www.bgcgh.org](http://www.bgcgh.org)

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Shannon Woodruff

Senior Director of Development

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston

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Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, 815 Crosby Street, Houston, TX 77007

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# Qatar and Boys & Girls Clubs Celebrate SPRING!



## Today's Celebration

It's a wonderful time to celebrate Spring with friends! This week, the State of Qatar and the Boys & Girls Clubs of America are hosting Spring celebrations across the U.S., including Houston, Los Angeles, Miami and New York City to welcome the new season and exchange information about Qatar's people and culture. Qatar is a small country in the Middle East, but it has been a good friend of the U.S. and a supportive partner of the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Houston's Spring celebration was held April 12 at the Holthouse Club in the East End. Some 200 members from Holthouse and surrounding Clubs, age 6 to 17, participated in a variety of hands-on activities, including an Easter egg hunt, crafts to make floral headbands and artistic flower pots, as well as temporary body art tattoos and henna.

## Partnership between Qatar and Boys & Girls Clubs

The State of Qatar has an Embassy in Washington, D.C. and three consulates across the U.S., including Houston. From these diplomatic offices, Qatar provides humanitarian assistance and philanthropic donations to worthy organizations like the Boys & Girls Clubs. The Embassy first supported the Clubs in 2007 with a \$5 million grant from the Qatar Katrina Fund to Boys and Girls Club of the Gulf Coast in Pass Christian, Mississippi. This gift allowed the Club to rebuild its 28,000-square-foot community center, which was destroyed during Hurricane Katrina and is now named the Qatar Center. Since then, the Embassy has supported Clubs in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas.

After Hurricane Harvey, 11 Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston received a total of \$622,000 to help them recover from the storm. This financial support was provided in conjunction with Rebuild Texas Fund.



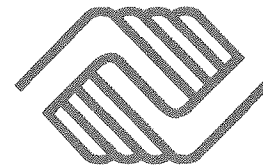
## Qatar Harvey Fund

### About Qatar and the Qatar Harvey Fund

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a \$30 million gift for the long-term recovery of the storms' victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift.

Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972. That same year, Qatar opened its diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C.

The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the U.S. is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational and cultural.



## BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER HOUSTON

### About the Boys & Girls Clubs

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston is the region's leading youth development organization, achieving an enviable record of creatively engaging, educating and empowering over 20,000 low-income youth and teens in ways that positively impact their lives and improve their chances of achieving and sustaining academic and economic success. [www.bgcgh.org](http://www.bgcgh.org)

## **FINAL Version**

### **Scholarship Program Aids UH System Students Impacted by Hurricane Harvey**

#### **Scholarships made possible by \$500,000 grant from the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund**

HOUSTON – April 15, 2019 – A new scholarship program will assist students at the four University of Houston System universities who are still struggling to recover from the long-term devastation of Hurricane Harvey. A \$500,000 donation from the Rebuild Texas Fund via the Qatar Harvey Fund will provide scholarships of up to \$5,000 per student to a minimum of 300 students at the University of Houston, University of Houston-Downtown, University of Houston-Clear Lake and University of Houston-Victoria. The average scholarship is expected to be \$1,667 per student.

The lasting impact of Harvey forced 279 students across the four UHS universities to fully withdraw from classes and 880 others to partially withdraw. The Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship program at the University of Houston System will help students during the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters with unmet costs of attendance such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and educational supplies, and transportation expenses.

“Hurricane Harvey tested our resilience as a university system and as a city, but together we stood strong. However, like so many others in our region, some students continue to struggle,” said Renu Khator, University of Houston System chancellor. “I am extremely grateful to the Rebuild Texas Fund and Qatar Harvey Fund for supporting these students and giving them an opportunity to pursue their educational goals.”

The Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship program at UHS is the third such program created by the Qatar Harvey Fund and Rebuild Texas Fund to assist students in southeast Texas. The two funds also jointly established similar scholarships at Houston Community College and Lamar University in Beaumont, TX.

“Qatar has deep ties in Houston and southeast Texas through many years of economic and educational exchange,” said His Excellency Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar’s Ambassador to the U.S. “When we understood the scale of the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, there was no question that Qatar would help this region’s long recovery process.”

Hurricane Harvey's catastrophic flooding and wind devastated the city of Houston and Southeast Texas in August 2017. The broad destruction along the Gulf Coast significantly impacted all four UHS universities. Flooding inundated buildings, roads and natural wetland spaces in and around each campus.

Each of the four universities has already contacted students who may be eligible for this assistance and invited them to apply. Students will be notified of any scholarships granted beginning April 16 through June 15.

While priority will be given to students who have exhausted all other forms of aid and/or are nearing graduation, the following students are eligible for a scholarship under the program:

- Students who withdrew in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey and have not re-enrolled.
- Students who have reduced their credit hours as a result of Harvey's impact.
- Students facing financial challenges in maintaining their current enrollment due to ongoing hardship.

The Rebuild Texas Fund, a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, was created to support the rebuilding of Texas communities hit hard by Hurricane Harvey. The State of Qatar created the Qatar Harvey Fund in 2017, pledging \$30 million to support the people of Texas in the aftermath of the hurricane. Chancellor Khator is a member of the Qatar Harvey Fund's Advisory Board.

#### **About the University of Houston System**

The University of Houston System is a comprehensive system of higher education institutions with a global reach that serves to further the intellectual capital and economic strength of the Gulf Coast region. The UH System includes the University of Houston, a nationally recognized Tier One public research university; the University of Houston-Downtown, a four-year undergraduate university expanding into graduate programs; the University of Houston-Victoria, a four-year university with undergraduate and master's level degree programs; and the University of Houston- Clear Lake, a four-year university with undergraduate and graduate programs. The system also has several teaching sites, including UHCL Pearland Campus, UHD Northwest, UH Katy, UH Sugar Land and UHV Katy. In addition, the System owns and operates Houston Public Media (HPM), which comprises KUHF-FM, Houston's National Public Radio station, and KUHT-TV, the nation's first educational television station. To learn more about the UH System, [click here](#).

#### **About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar**

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storms victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of

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***About the Rebuild Texas Fund***

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations within the impacted communities that are making an impact in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; health; housing; education and childcare; transportation and workforce; and capital for rebuilding small businesses. The Rebuild Texas Fund will continue to fund projects and organizations within these areas through 2019. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in Texas communities that have been affected by Hurricane Harvey. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuilddtx.org](http://www.rebuilddtx.org).



## News Release

# THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Office of Marketing and Communications · 301 Tarrow Street  
College Station, Texas 77840-7896 · 979.458.6023 · [www.tamug.edu](http://www.tamug.edu)

April 24, 2019

## **\$1 million grant to restore college dreams washed away by Harvey**

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — More than 500 students attending five Texas A&M System campuses withdrew from school and did not return after Hurricane Harvey swamped the Texas coast in 2017.

A \$1 million grant from the State of Qatar via the Qatar Harvey Fund will now help to support those aspiring scholars with a revamped safety net and money to help cover their tuition, fees, books, living expenses and even emergency expenses at Texas A&M University, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Prairie View A&M University, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and Texas A&M University-Kingsville.

The money will help students whose lives were upended by Hurricane Harvey and who slipped through the existing safety net at each campus.

Funding for the grant was provided by the State of Qatar through its Qatar Harvey Fund, a \$30 million fund established in 2017 for the long-term recovery of southeast Texas. The funding will be granted through a partnership between the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund. The Rebuild Texas Fund, a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, was created to support the rebuilding of Texas communities hit hard by Hurricane Harvey.

The \$1 million grant to the Texas A&M System is the fourth scholarship program created by the Qatar Harvey Fund and Rebuild Texas Fund to assist students in southeast Texas. The two funds also jointly established the Qatar Harvey Fund Scholarship Program at Houston Community College, University of Houston System and Lamar University.

“Qatar and Texas have many long-standing ties, including a Texas A&M campus in Qatar that has awarded some 900 engineering degrees over more than a dozen years,” said His Excellency Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar’s Ambassador to the U.S. “When we saw the devastation from Hurricane Harvey, we created the Qatar Harvey Fund to help our friends in Texas recover from the storm. We are proud to once again partner with the Rebuild Texas Fund to support Texas students impacted by Hurricane Harvey.”

John Sharp, Chancellor of the Texas A&M System, said the grant will give deserving students a second chance at their college dreams.

“The Texas A&M University System is very thankful for this grant,” Chancellor Sharp said. “This money will help rebuild the future for hundreds of deserving Texans whose dreams of obtaining a degree were rained on by Harvey.”

To be eligible for assistance, a student must be:

- Either a current student impacted by Hurricane Harvey and enrolled in one of the five included A&M System universities;
- Or, be a student who withdrew from one of these universities as a result of Hurricane Harvey and have not yet reenrolled;
- Or, be a student who was admitted to one of these universities beginning in the Fall of 2017 but did not attend because of Harvey. Students must also have had a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 for undergraduate and 3.0 for graduate and doctoral students, if currently enrolled.

The applicant must also be able to demonstrate, with data or anecdotally, the effect of Harvey on their financial situation. The grant money would be available for the Fall 2019 semester.

**To learn more, contact:**

- **Texas A&M University:**
  - **Deanna Holder, Financial Aid Advisor. 979-845-3263. [dholder@tamu.edu](mailto:dholder@tamu.edu)**
- **Prairie View A&M:**
  - **Tim Sams, Vice President For Student Affairs. 936-261-2125. [tmsams@pvamu.edu](mailto:tmsams@pvamu.edu)**
- **Texas A&M University at Galveston:**
  - **Ken Bailey, Director of Career and Ability Services. 409-740-4725. [baileyk@tamug.edu](mailto:baileyk@tamug.edu)**
- **Texas A&M University-Kingsville**
  - **Kirsten Compary, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Student. 361-593-3606. [Kirsten.compary@tamuk.edu](mailto:Kirsten.compary@tamuk.edu)**
- **Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi**
  - **Kristeen Gonzalez, Student Assistance Coordinator. <http://harveyhelp.tamucc.edu/>. [harveyhelp@tamucc.edu](mailto:harveyhelp@tamucc.edu)**

###

#### **About The Texas A&M University System**

The Texas A&M University System is one of the largest systems of higher education in the nation, with a budget of

\$4.7 billion. Through a statewide network of 11 universities and seven state agencies, the Texas A&M System educates more than 153,000 students and makes more than 22 million additional educational contacts through service and outreach programs each year. System-wide, research and development expenditures exceeded \$996 million in FY 2017 and helped drive the state's economy.

#### **About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar**

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storms victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar's first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar's largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational, and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.

#### **About the Rebuild Texas Fund**

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations and community leaders in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; education and childcare; health; housing; rebuilding small businesses and workforce and transportation. The Rebuild Texas Fund will fund projects and organizations through July 2019 and will continue to work alongside communities through 2020. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in affected Texas communities. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuilddtx.org](http://www.rebuilddtx.org).

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**\*\*\*EMBARGOED UNTIL 12:00am JUNE 18, 2019\*\*\***

**COLLEGE DREAMS STAY ALIVE WITH \$3.25 MILLION IN SUPPORT FOR HARVEY-HIT STUDENTS**

*Lone Star College is fifth Texas higher education system to receive funding from the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund*

**HOUSTON, June 18, 2019** – Today, the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund announced that Lone Star College (LSC) will receive \$300,000 to establish a new scholarship program to assist up to 300 students who had to leave their college studies due to financial challenges after Hurricane Harvey. The funds, to be used for the fall 2019 and spring 2020 semesters, will help students get back to school and back on track with a combination of funds for tuition, related academic costs and mental-emotional health services.

“Lone Star College is extremely grateful for these funds,” said Stephen C. Head, Ph.D., LSC chancellor. “Many of our students were impacted by Hurricane Harvey and this will go a long way in helping them return to the classroom and finish their education.”

With today’s announcement, Lone Star College becomes the fifth higher education system in southeast Texas to receive funding support from the Qatar Harvey Fund and Rebuild Texas Fund. Across all the college systems, approximately 1,757 students are expected to receive scholarships from the grants. A breakdown of the financial allocations and number of scholarships created is listed below.

Funding is provided by the Qatar Harvey Fund, a \$30 million gift from the State of Qatar in 2017 for the long-term recovery of southeast Texas. The funding is granted through a partnership between the Qatar Harvey Fund and the Rebuild Texas Fund. The Rebuild Texas Fund, a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, was created to support the rebuilding of Texas communities hit hard by Hurricane Harvey.

“We have heard so much about the negative ripple effect of Hurricane Harvey on the communities of southeast Texas. The damage goes far beyond physical damage and people are still recovering from the enormous financial burden that caused so many to stop or delay their education in order to meet urgent needs,” said His Excellency Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar’s Ambassador to the U.S. “We are honored to work with the Rebuild Texas Fund on what we hope will serve as a multiplier effect, a balance against the life-upending impact of Harvey, and allow these students to achieve in their academic studies and beyond.”

“It’s important for Texas’ future that students return to their communities and complete their degrees. The Rebuild Texas Fund wants the communities hit by Harvey to continue to rebuild and come back stronger than ever – supporting our students and helping them complete their studies is an important part of that process,” said Neeraj Aggarwal, program director for the Rebuild Texas Fund.

College/University	Total Grants	Scholarships Created	Announced (2019)
Houston Community College	\$300,000	230	January
Lamar University	\$1,154,116	527	March
University of Houston System	\$500,000	300	April
The Texas A&M University System	\$1,000,000	400	April
Lone Star College	\$300,000	300	June
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$3,254,116</b>	<b>1,757</b>	

#### About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storm's victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. For more information, visit [www.QatarHarveyFund.com](http://www.QatarHarveyFund.com).

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#### About the Rebuild Texas Fund

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund works alongside organizations and community leaders in the following six focus areas: community and economic development; education and childcare; health; housing; rebuilding small businesses and workforce and transportation. The Rebuild Texas Fund will fund projects and organizations through July 2019 and will continue to work alongside communities through 2020. Funding through the Rebuild Texas Fund is provided to eligible nonprofit, government, corporate, and philanthropic organizations working on the ground in affected Texas communities. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuildtx.org](http://www.rebuildtx.org).

###

#### Contacts:

Qatar Harvey Fund: George Smalley, (713) 249-5614

Rebuild Texas Fund: Sara Ballard, (512) 600-5532

Lone Star College: Bill Van Rysdam, (832) 813-6206

# LEARNING UNDEFEATED»

Educate | Elevate | Empower

## NEWS

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### **Learning Undefeated Unveils Two Drop Anywhere Labs™ for Texas Schools Slammed by Hurricane Harvey**

***Grants from Rebuild Texas Fund and Qatar Harvey Fund Will Support  
Advanced Mobile STEM Education for Up to 40,000 Students Annually***

**Gaithersburg, MD, and Refugio, TX – September 9, 2019** – [Learning Undefeated](#), a nonprofit organization that provides life-changing STEM experiences for high needs communities, today introduced two [Drop Anywhere Labs](#) to serve Texas schools in areas hard-hit by Hurricane Harvey. Supported by grants from the [Rebuild Texas Fund](#) and [Qatar Harvey Fund](#), the Drop Anywhere Lab is a custom-built shipping container that will provide state-of-the-art laboratory and classroom space for middle and high school students across South Texas during the 2019-2020 school year.

"Learning Undefeated brings this new concept in STEM education to Texas as part of our long-standing commitment to serve high needs communities," said Brian Gaines, CEO of Learning Undefeated. "In the two years since Hurricane Harvey, our mobile disaster recovery education program has enabled students to re-engage with school in a fun way, and helped speed the return to normalcy where schools were damaged or destroyed. With the Drop Anywhere Labs, we hope to inspire even more students with opportunities available to them through interactive STEM experiences."

Since 2017, Learning Undefeated has served nearly 15,000 Texas students at 27 schools in 11 school districts with its MdBioLab, a self-contained science classroom built on a 45-foot trailer. The addition of the Drop Anywhere Labs, which can each support up to four classes simultaneously, will enable Learning Undefeated to serve an additional 20,000 Texas students in its pilot year, ultimately growing to 40,000 students each school year at full capacity. The mobile lab program provides teaching space and scientific equipment, career exploration activities, lab supplies, during- and after-school programming, and public outreach.

"Learning Undefeated's mobile laboratory visited our school for several months following Hurricane Harvey, which gave our students the chance to learn science through hands-on activities when the school's facilities had been destroyed," said Melissa Gonzales, Superintendent of Refugio Independent School District. "This helped our students remain engaged in learning during a time when many other things in their lives were uncertain. We are excited to be the very first Texas school to experience these new Drop Anywhere Labs." In the 2019/20 school year, the labs will serve more than 20 school districts including Houston, Refugio, Woodsboro, Aransas Pass, Vidor, Bloomington, and Dickinson.

The Learning Undeclared labs offer education in a number of disciplines, including construction, science and health, biology, chemistry environmental science, forensics, virtual reality, and engineering.

"We're proud to work alongside Learning Undeclared as they make their return visit to Texas. These Drop Anywhere Labs will provide critical support for Texas school districts and communities as they continue to rebuild after Hurricane Harvey. In addition, these labs will be a unique means for our state to prepare for future disasters by deploying the labs in order to provide key learning tools and curriculum for students and teachers in these impacted communities," said Cristina Cornejo, Program Manager, Rebuild Texas Fund.

"For many years the State of Qatar has made STEM studies a priority. In fact, support for education has been a key component of the Qatar Harvey Fund as we seek to help communities in southeast Texas more fully recover from Hurricane Harvey," said His Excellency Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Qatar's Ambassador to the U.S. and Chair of the Qatar Harvey Fund. "We're excited that these new science labs will bring the wonders of science to thousands of Texas students and foster their renewed interest in scientific exploration and pursuits."

Learning Undeclared, the Rebuild Texas Fund, and Qatar Harvey Fund were joined today at Refugio High School for a ribbon-cutting ceremony unveiling the Drop Anywhere Labs by Superintendent Melissa Gonzales, local elected officials, and teachers and students from Refugio ISD. The ceremony included hands-on STEM activities for students, and an open house for educators, parents, and the community to explore the Drop Anywhere Labs.

###

#### **About Learning Undeclared**

Learning Undeclared is a non-profit organization that provides life-changing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education opportunities for underserved communities. Through innovative and experiential education programs for grades K-12, we are sparking interest in STEM careers and building the workforce that will drive the innovation economy. Learning Undeclared's flagship education program features mobile STEM labs that have provided hands-on learning opportunities to more than 200,000 K-12 students in 18 states since 2003. Learning Undeclared also operates several other celebrated STEM education programs including the Young Science Explorers Program, a summer camp for middle school students; Advancing Tomorrow's Leaders in STEM (ATLAS) College and Career Exploration Program; STEM Leadership Experience; student competitions; after-school programs; curriculum development; and disaster recovery education. Visit [learningundeclared.org](http://learningundeclared.org) or follow on social media @LearningUNDFTD.

#### **About the Rebuild Texas Fund**

The Rebuild Texas Fund is a collaborative project of the Michael & Susan Dell Foundation and the OneStar Foundation, established to support the rebuilding efforts in communities impacted by Hurricane Harvey. The Rebuild Texas Fund raised \$100M, all of which is at work on the ground in affected Texas communities. We are working alongside these communities throughout 2020 to complete all projects funded. More information about the Rebuild Texas Fund is available at [www.rebuildtx.org](http://www.rebuildtx.org)

#### **About the Qatar Harvey Fund and the State of Qatar**

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storm's victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. For more information, visit [www.QatarHarveyFund.com](http://www.QatarHarveyFund.com).

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# Dynamo Charities bring Qatar National Sport Day to Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston

### NEED TO KNOW:

- Dynamo Charities partnered with Embassy of the State of Qatar and Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston to promote Qatar National Sport Day
- Houston Dynamo ran a soccer clinic from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CT on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club for 120 children
- Summer and fall Camps to follow with each culminating in a four-team tournament

**HOUSTON (Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020)** – Qatar National Sport Day was celebrated in Houston again this year, thanks to the Embassy of the State of Qatar, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, and Dynamo Charities.

On Tuesday, February 11, the Spring Branch Boys & Girls Club had 120 children - ranging in age from 6 to 14 - join Forward **Christian Ramirez** and Midfielder **Boniek Garcia** of the Houston Dynamo and Goalkeeper **Jane Campbell** and Forward **Katie Stengel** of the Houston Dash in a soccer clinic led by Houston Dynamo Youth coaches and players. Also present were diplomats from Qatar's Houston Consulate. The clinic featured numerous chances for the students to enhance their skills, practice moves, and even participate in scrimmages.

**His Excellency Ambassador Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani**, Qatar's Ambassador to the United States, said: "We were excited to join forces again this year with the Houston Dynamo and Boys & Girls Clubs to celebrate National Sport Day. In addition to celebrations inside Qatar, there were fun, family activities taking place around the world, including Houston and several other American cities. We take considerable pride in promoting the importance of sports and healthy lifestyles in our community and beyond."

Qatar is one of several countries that celebrate a national sports holiday, with residents being encouraged to participate in many sporting events offered in stadiums and parks across Qatar with both friends and family. Throughout the day, participants also learn about the unique sporting heritage Qatar has and how it has helped shape the country's growth over the years, including the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup that will be held in Qatar.

"We are proud to have once again partnered with Qatar and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston to help promote Qatar's National Sport Day and the wonderful impact that soccer can provide people," said Club President **John Walker**. "This partnership exemplifies and validates the international reach that Major League Soccer in Houston provides on a global scale, while still focusing on our hometown communities and growing the game in Houston."

Qatar and the Dynamo will run “Kick It,” a weekly soccer program at four Boys and Girls Clubs in the summer and fall, with each culminating in a tournament. Each club will also receive a donation of soccer equipment, including uniforms and weekly visits from youth program coaches to lead clinics for Boys and Girls Club members. This program will use the sport of soccer to teach the importance of teamwork, self-confidence, leadership development, physical fitness and fun.

Qatar and southeast Texas have long-standing cultural, educational, and economic ties. In 2017, the State of Qatar announced a \$30 million gift for the long-term recovery of the victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas. One of those donations was \$622,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston, in partnership with the rebuild Texas Fund, for both physical repairs and programmatic support.

#### **ABOUT THE HOUSTON DYNAMO**

The Houston Dynamo are a Major League Soccer club that has won two MLS Cup championships, one Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup and four conference championships in its first 14 seasons and has qualified to represent the United States in international competition seven times. The Dynamo have advanced to the Conference Championship series seven times in 14 years, the most of any Major League Soccer team since 2006; and the club’s four appearances in the MLS Cup Final are tied for the most in the league during that time span. The team trains on the Memorial Hermann Championship Field at Houston Sports Park (HSP), the premier training facility in Southeast Texas, and plays at BBVA Stadium in downtown Houston. For more information, log on to [www.HoustonDynamo.com](http://www.HoustonDynamo.com) or call (713) 276-7500.

#### **ABOUT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF GREATER HOUSTON**

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Houston is the region’s leading youth development organization, achieving an enviable record of creatively engaging, educating and empowering over 20,000 low-income youth and teens in ways that positively impact their lives and improve their chances of achieving and sustaining academic and economic success. For more information, please visit [BGCGH.org](http://BGCGH.org).

#### **ABOUT THE STATE OF QATAR**

Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storm’s victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift. For more information, visit [www.QatarHarveyFund.com](http://www.QatarHarveyFund.com). Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. It has a population of approximately 2.7 million people, the majority of whom live in and around Doha, the capital. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar’s first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar’s largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East. Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States.

*---Hold It Down---*